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Re: Proposed Amendments to Claims in
U.S. Appl. 10/712,961 (Docket 298-210)

Claims 1-22. Canceled

23. (currently amended) ~~The A hinge (1) of Claim 24, additionally comprising~~
a first movable hinge section (3),

a second hinge section (2) including a fixed stop section,

at least one joint axis (7) interconnecting said first and second hinge sections

(3,2),

a damping device (16) mounted upon one of said first and second hinge sections

(3,2) and comprising a movably-mounted damping member (19),

gear means mounted upon said first and second hinge sections (3,2) for acting
upon said damping member (19) at least in a region of a closed position of said hinge
(1),

said gear means comprising at least three movable gear members (20, 22, 27),

an axis (6) positioned upon one (2) of said hinge sections (2, 3) for supporting a
one of the gear member members (22) intermediately-mounted between said two other
gear members (20, 27) of said at least three gear members (20, 22, 27), and

said intermediately-mounted gear member (22) comprising two separate
engaging members (21, 23; 33, 23) arranged

(i) concentrically about said axis (6) supporting said intermediately-mounted gear

member (22),

(ii) at a periphery of said intermediately-mounted gear member (22), and

(iii) at unequal distance from said axis (6) supporting said intermediately-mounted gear (22),

with said engaging member (23) mounted further from said axis (6) arranged to engage one (20) of said gears (20, 22, 27) contacting said damping member (19), and

said engaging member (33; 21) mounted closer to said axis (6) arranged to engage the other (27) of said gears (20, 22, 27) mounted upon the other (3) of said hinge sections (3, 2).

24.(currently amended) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein said engaging members (21, 23) are constituted by toothed segments (21, 23) concentrically-curved with respect to said axis (6) and having different radii of curvature,

with said engaging member (23) mounted further from said axis (6) having the larger radius of curvature and said engaging member (21) mounted closer to said axis (6) having the smaller radius of curvature, and

said other gear (27) of said gears (20, 22, 27) engaging said engaging member (33;21) mounted closer to said axis (6) being rotatably mounted and comprising a toothed segment (27) arranged to engage said toothed segment (21) of said intermediately-mounted gear (22) having the smaller radius of curvature.

25.(Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein

said engaging member (23) mounted further from said axis (6) being constituted by a toothed segment (23) concentrically-curved with respect to said axis (6),

said engaging member (33) mounted closer to said axis (6) being constituted by

either a projection or fork-shaped recess (33), and

said other gear (27) of said gears (20, 22, 27) engaging said member (33;21)
mounted closer to said axis (6) comprising a recess or projection (37) arranged to
engage said projection or fork-shaped recess (33) of said engaging member (33)
mounted closer to said axis (6).

26.(Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein

said hinge (1) is a double-joint hinge,

said axis (6) is mounted upon said second hinge section (2) which is fixed, and

said other gear (27) of said gear members (20, 22, 27) engaging said engaging
member (33;21) mounted closer to said axis (6) comprises an engaging member (27)
arranged to engage said engaging member (21) mounted closer to said axis (6) and a
connecting rod (5) mounted upon said movable hinge section (3).

27.(previously presented) The hinge of Claim 26, additionally comprising

a second connecting rod (4) mounted upon said movable hinge section (3) and
axis (6) supporting said intermediately-positioned gear member (22).

28.(previously presented) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein

said intermediately-positioned gear member (22) is symmetrically-positioned with
respect to a diameter plane (24) extending through centers of both said engaging
members (21, 23).

29.(previously presented) The hinge of Claim 27, additionally comprising

means for overcoming damping force and comprising

said first connecting rod (5) comprising legs (13),

one (2) of said hinge sections (2, 3) comprising a cross-piece (14),

a hairpin-shaped spring (12) being retained between said legs (13) and supported on said joint axis (7) and cross-piece (14), and

said second connecting rod (4) comprising a rolled-up bearing eye (10) mounted about said axis (6) supporting said intermediately-positioned gear (22) and a tongue (11) extending from said bearing eye (10) and arranged to act as a cam sliding along a leg of said spring (12).

30.(Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein

said damping member (~~16~~ 19) is mounted upon said ~~fixed~~ hinge section (2) which is fixed, and

said ~~other gear~~ (27[;] ~~37; 45~~) ~~of said gears~~ engaging said engaging member (33;21) mounted closer to said axis (6) is rotatably mounted upon said joint axis (7; 60) in turn mounted upon said fixed hinge section (2).

31.(Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 26, wherein said connecting rod (5) is arranged to be supported by or interconnect said two hinge sections (2,3) and rigidly connected to said ~~other gear~~ (27[;] ~~37~~) ~~of said gears~~ engagning said engaging member (33;21) mounted closer to said axis (6).

Claims 32-38. Canceled

39.(Previously Presented) The hinge of Claim 24 wherein ratio of said smaller: larger radii is from 1:1.5 to 1:3.

40.(Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 24 wherein the radius of said engaging member (23) mounted further from said axis (6) is larger than radius of said gear (20) contacting said damping member (19).

41.(Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein said engaging member

(23) engaging said gear (20) in turn contacting said damping member (19), is arranged to impart rotary movement over a range of 60° to 70°.

42. (Currently Amended) The hinge of Claim 23, wherein said intermediately-mounted gear (22) and ~~other gear (27[,]37, 45)~~ engaging said engaging member (33;21) mounted closer to said axis (6) are arranged to engage at an angular position 20°-30° before reaching a completely-closed position of said hinge (1) to provide damping action.

Claim 43. Canceled